

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel Claims 2, 8, 12, 13, 17 and 18 without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter contained therein.

Please amend Claims 1, 3-7, 9-11, 14, and 15 as follows.

1. (Currently Amended) An image forming apparatus comprising:

a first unit comprising: having

a developer container holding developer containing a toner and a carrier and comprising a stirring member configured and positioned to stir the developer; and carrier, and

a developer holder configured and positioned to hold and transfer the developer held in ~~the~~ said developer container;

a second unit configured and positioned to supply the toner to ~~the~~ said developer container; and

a processing unit configured to determine the time of replacement of ~~the~~ said first unit, from information on a the amount of toner supply amount supplied by ~~from the~~ said second unit to said developer container or information on an operation amount of ~~the~~ said developer holder,

wherein said processing unit determines a use amount of the carrier based on the information on the toner supply amount or the information on the operation amount of said developer holder, and based on the result of the determination of the use amount of the carrier, determines whether said first unit should be replaced, and

wherein said processing unit calculates the use amount of the carrier from the number of revolutions or period of rotation of said stirring member.

2. (Cancelled)

3. (Currently Amended) The image forming apparatus according to claim 1, wherein  
said first and second units are removable from said image forming apparatus removably  
comprising the first unit and the second unit.

4. (Currently Amended) The image forming apparatus according to claim 1, wherein ~~the~~  
said first unit is a process cartridge further including an electrostatic drum and a charging roller.

5. (Currently Amended) The image forming apparatus according to claim 1,  
wherein ~~the~~ said second unit has a toner supply member configured and positioned to  
supply the toner to ~~the~~ said developer container, and  
wherein ~~said~~ the information on the toner supply amount includes an operation amount of  
~~the~~ said toner supply member.

6. (Currently Amended) The image forming apparatus according to claim 5,  
wherein ~~the~~ said toner supply member is a toner supply screw, and  
wherein ~~the~~ said processing unit calculates the operation amount of ~~the~~ said toner supply  
member from the number of revolutions or period of rotation of ~~the~~ said screw.

7. (Currently Amended) The image forming apparatus according to claim 1,  
wherein ~~the~~ said first unit further has a toner density sensor to detect a toner density in ~~the~~

said developer container, and

wherein ~~the~~ said processing unit causes said second unit to supply ~~performs~~ toner supply ~~from the second unit~~ to said developer container in correspondence with the toner density detected by ~~the~~ said toner density sensor, and calculates the information on the toner supply amount from a detection value from ~~the~~ said toner density sensor.

8. (Cancelled)

9. (Currently Amended) The image forming apparatus according to claim 1, wherein ~~the~~ said first unit further comprises: has

a storage medium configured the store ~~for storing~~ the information on the toner supply amount or the information on the operation amount of ~~the~~ said developer holder; and holder, and ~~and~~ further has

a data transmission/reception device for ~~the~~ said storage medium.

10. (Currently Amended) A developing unit attachable to ~~attachable/detachable to/from~~ an image forming apparatus and detachable from the image forming apparatus, comprising:

a developer container holding developer containing a toner and a carrier;

a developer holder configured and positioned to hold and transfer the developer held in ~~the~~ said developer container; and

a storage medium having an area for storing information on the amount of toner supplied ~~a toner supply amount~~ to ~~the~~ said developer container, and an area for storing information on an

operation amount of ~~the~~ said developer holder,

wherein said storage medium further has a storage area for storing threshold information of the toner supply amount or threshold information of the operation amount of said developer holder, and

wherein the threshold information of the toner supply amount or the threshold information of the operation amount of said developer holder is information indicating when the life of the carrier expires.

11. (Currently Amended) The developing unit according to claim 10, wherein the information on the toner supply amount or the information on the operation amount of ~~the~~ said developer holder is information indicating a use amount of the carrier.

12. (Cancelled)

13. (Cancelled)

14. (Currently Amended) The developing unit according to claim 10, wherein ~~the~~ said developing unit is a process cartridge further including an electrostatic drum and a charging roller.

15. (Currently Amended) A storage medium installed in a developing unit attachable to ~~attachable/detachable to/from~~ an image forming apparatus and detachable from the image

forming apparatus, wherein the developing unit ~~has~~ has a developer container holding developer containing a toner and a carrier, ~~and carrier~~, and a developer holder configured and positioned to hold and transfer the developer held in the developer container, and wherein ~~the~~ said storage medium comprises ~~has~~:

a storage area for storing information on the amount of a toner supplied ~~supply~~ amount to the developer container; ~~and~~

a storage area for storing information on an operation amount of the developer holder; and

a storage area for storing threshold information of the toner supply amount or threshold information of the operation amount of the developer holder.

wherein the threshold information of the toner supply amount or the threshold information of the operation amount of the developer holder is information indicating when the life of the carrier expires.

16. (Original) The storage medium according to claim 15, wherein the information on the toner supply amount or the information on the operation amount of the developer holder is information indicating a use amount of the carrier.

17. (Cancelled)

18. (Cancelled)